

1. An airbag assembly comprising:
an inflatable curtain; and
a stiffening member that extends along at least a portion of the longitudinal length
of the inflatable curtain, the stiffening member being disposed at or proximate to the top
5 end of the inflatable curtain and constructed to resist twisting of the inflatable curtain
along a portion of the longitudinal length.

2. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the stiffening member is made
of a plastic material.

3. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the thickness of the stiffening
member is between about 1 to about 3 millimeters.

4. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the stiffening member extends
15 along the entirety of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain.

5. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the stiffening member
comprises a bar.

6. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein stiffening member includes a
20 flap.

7. An airbag assembly as in claim 6 wherein the flap is attached to the inflatable curtain by sewing or stitching along a sew line.

8. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the stiffening member fits into one or more pockets that have been added to the inflatable curtain.

9. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the inflatable curtain and the stiffening member are held within a wrapper.

10. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the stiffening member is attached to the inflatable curtain via one or more mounting brackets.

11. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the inflatable curtain further comprises one or more attachment tabs.

12. An airbag assembly as in claim 11 wherein the attachment tabs are inserted through one or more apertures in the stiffening member.

13. An airbag assembly as in claim 11 wherein the stiffening member is attached to the attachment tabs.

14. An airbag assembly as in claim 11 wherein the stiffening member is attached below the attachment tabs.

15. An airbag assembly as in claim 11 wherein the stiffening member is positioned between two attachment tabs.

5 16. An airbag assembly as in claim 1 wherein the stiffening member serves as a shape-maintainer.

17. An airbag assembly that is attachable to a vehicle interior having a roof rail, the assembly comprising:

an inflatable curtain; and

a stiffening member that is attachable to the vehicle interior or the inflatable curtain, the stiffening member being positioned outside of the inflatable curtain and extending along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain, the stiffening member being disposed at or proximate to the top end of the inflatable curtain and constructed to resist twisting of the inflatable curtain along a portion of the longitudinal length.

18. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the stiffening member is made of a plastic material.

19. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the thickness of the stiffening member is between about 1 to about 3 millimeters.

20. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the stiffening member extends along the entirety of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain.

21. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the stiffening member comprises a bar.

22. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the inflatable curtain and the stiffening member are held within a wrapper.

23. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the stiffening member is
5 attached to the inflatable curtain via one or more mounting brackets.

24. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the inflatable curtain further comprises one or more attachment tabs.

10 25. An airbag assembly as in claim 24 wherein the attachment tabs are inserted through one or more apertures in the stiffening member.

26. An airbag assembly as in claim 24 wherein the stiffening member is attached to the attachment tabs.

15 27. An airbag assembly as in claim 24 wherein the stiffening member is attached below the attachment tabs.

28. An airbag assembly as in claim 24 wherein the stiffening member is
20 positioned between two attachment tabs.

29. An airbag assembly as in claim 17 wherein the stiffening member serves as a shape-maintainer.

30. An airbag assembly that is attachable to a vehicle interior having a roof rail, the assembly comprising:

an inflatable curtain; and

a stiffening member that is attachable to the vehicle interior or the inflatable curtain, the stiffening member extending along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain, the stiffening member being disposed at or proximate to the top end of the inflatable curtain and positioned such that at least a portion of the stiffening member is inside the inflatable curtain, wherein the stiffening member is constructed to resist twisting of the inflatable curtain along a portion of the longitudinal length.

31. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the stiffening member is made of a plastic material.

32. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the thickness of the stiffening member is between about 1 to about 3 millimeters.

33. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the stiffening member extends along the entirety of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain.

34. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the stiffening member comprises a bar.

35. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein stiffening member includes a flap.

5 36. An airbag assembly as in claim 35 wherein the flap is attached to the inflatable curtain by sewing or stitching along a sew line.

37. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the stiffening member fits into one or more pockets that have been added to the inflatable curtain.

10 38. An airbag assembly as in claim 30 wherein the inflatable curtain and the stiffening member are held within a wrapper.

39. An airbag assembly comprising:
an inflatable curtain; and
a stiffening member that extends along at least a portion of the longitudinal length
of the inflatable curtain, the stiffening member being disposed at or proximate to the top
5 end and constructed to deform the inflatable curtain when the inflatable curtain is twisted
such that the inflatable curtain cannot be installed onto a vehicle without correction of the
deformation.

40. An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the stiffening member is made
10 of a plastic material.

41. An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the stiffening member is
positioned such that at least a portion of the stiffening member is inside the inflatable
curtain.
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42. An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the thickness of the stiffening
member is between about 1 to about 3 millimeters.

43. An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the stiffening member is a bar.
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44. An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the inflatable curtain and the
stiffening member are held within a wrapper.

45. An airbag assembly as in claim 39 wherein the inflatable curtain further comprises one or more attachment tabs.

46. An airbag assembly as in claim 45 wherein the attachment tabs are passed
5 through one or more apertures in the stiffening member.

47. An airbag assembly as in claim 45 wherein the stiffening member deforms
the inflatable curtain when the inflatable curtain is twisted such that the position of the
attachment tabs varies along the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain.

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48. A method for method of resisting twisting of an inflatable curtain
comprising:

obtaining an inflatable curtain;

5 obtaining a stiffening member that is constructed to extend along at least a
portion of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain, and
attaching the stiffening member to the inflatable curtain.

49. A method as in claim 48 wherein the stiffening member is constructed to
resist twisting of the inflatable curtain along a portion of the longitudinal length.

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50. A method as in claim 48 wherein the stiffening member is constructed to
deform the inflatable curtain when the inflatable curtain is twisted such that the inflatable
curtain cannot be installed onto a vehicle without correction of the deformation. '

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51. A method as in claim 48 wherein the stiffening member is attached to one
or more attachment tabs that are positioned on the inflatable curtain.

52. A method as in claim 48 wherein the stiffening member is attached below
one or more attachment tabs that are positioned on the inflatable curtain.

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